

WASHFAX RECEIPT

THE WHITE HOUSE

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MESSAGE NO.

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FROM

Oliver North

(NAME)

395-3345

(EXTENSION)

NSC Rm 392

(ROOM NUMBER)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

of C.R.

Proposed Signing Statement

TO (AGENCY)

Cia

DELIVER TO:

DEPT/ROOM NO.

EXTENSION

STAT
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1 Chief, Central

American Task Force

Cia

Director Casey

REMARKS

OCT 12 4 26 PM '84

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DRAFT

PROPOSED SIGNING STATEMENT OF C.R.

Executive Registry

84 - 9399

Despite certain seriously objectionable provisions in this continuing resolution, I have decided that signing this bill is in the interests of our nation. Although the adverse implications of some sections of the bill are severe, overall this legislation accomplishes major goals established by this Administration.

- The enrolled legislation is the culmination of months of negotiation, providing funds for eight of the thirteen regular appropriation bills. It provides most of what I asked for in the way of funding levels.
- A major piece of crime legislation which incorporates provisions introduced by my Administration to improve our ability to combat terrorism and protect our people and facilities overseas is included.
- In addition, the continual threat to veto a bill that included funding for construction of new water projects in the absence of cost-sharing and user fee legislation persuaded the Congress to delete these provisions from the bill.

While the conference agreement provides for less defense funding than we requested and believe is required, it does allow the continuation of our program to rebuild this nation's defense. The key elements of our program were funded: continued production of the B-1B bomber was endorsed; and the Peacekeeper missile was approved without proposals by the House that would have established unprecedented restrictions linking the program to Soviet behavior. The anti-satellite testing program will continue, as well as the important deployment of our sea-launched cruise missiles

I am greatly disturbed with the deep cuts made in our strategic defense initiative program. Congress has by these cuts potentially delayed the day when our people can be free from the terrible threat of nuclear ballistic missiles. The American public has overwhelmingly supported this effort in recent polls. As the newly elected Congress considers our future requests for this essential initiative, I hope that it will better understand the great hope and moral obligation we have to seek the safer world our technology and our people's creativity offer for ourselves and our children.

The bill also compels me to clarify my intent with respect to one provision included by reference in the resolution which attempts to narrow the constitutionally endowed authorities of the

President. Section 535 of the Foreign Assistance and Related Programs Appropriations Act 1985, which is part of H.J. Res. 648, provides that no employee of or individual acting on behalf of the United States Government shall recognize or negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization or representation thereof until certain conditions are met. By now it should be clear that U.S. policy is not to recognize or negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization so long as that organization does not recognize Israel's right to exist and does not accept United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 and 338. This Administration reaffirms that policy and welcomes Congressional support for it. I am compelled, however, not to accept any Congressional efforts to impose legislation restrictions in this area, which, under sections 2 and 3 of Article II of the Constitution, is reserved exclusively to the President. I will, therefore, consider section 535 to constitute a non-binding expression of Congressional support for our policy.

The most seriously flawed portion of the bill is that section which unduly restricts the ability of this government to support the democratic resistance forces in Nicaragua. This nation must retain a full range of capabilities to combat externally supported communism on the mainland of this hemisphere. Indeed, twenty-three years ago the congress of the United States enjoined President Kennedy that he was obligated to protect us, and our friends, against Cuban-sponsored subversion in this hemisphere.

Today, the struggling democracies of Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador are being threatened by Soviet bloc and Cuban-supported Sandinistas who are bent on exporting their revolution and denying the people of Nicaragua the basic freedoms of expression, religion, and election we take for granted. This bill unilaterally relieves for five months the single most effective instrument of pressure available to cause the Sandinistas to moderate their behavior.

The legislative record reflects that this portion of the bill could be misinterpreted by some to indicate that we could be constrained from exercising our obligations under the Rio Treaty. The wording of this section of the bill sufficiently undermines our security and creates such grave security risks to our national security and credibility that I will seriously consider recalling the Congress immediately after the election so that they may remedy this situation. I am signing this resolution only because I have every expectation that shortly after Congress convenes it will provide adequate support for these vital programs.

JAN 15 1984